



AMIDEAST
اميد ايست

Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program Alumni Newsletter Fall 2000

AMIDEAST is pleased to bring you the first edition of the *IASP Alumni Newsletter*. We hope that this newsletter will be the first of a series of newsletters distributed twice a year to IASP alumni. The *IASP Alumni Newsletter* is designed to provide all IASP Alumni with information and updates that may be of interest to you, such as conferences and seminars, alumni activities, and, of course, news of you and your colleagues' accomplishments and milestones, whether professional or personal.

AMIDEAST is grateful to the United States Department of State for its sponsorship of this newsletter and other Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program alumni activities.

In this first edition of your alumni newsletter we have attempted to provide you with news and information relevant to you. We encourage you to stay in contact with the [United States Embassy in Tel Aviv](http://www.usembassy-israel.org.il) (<http://www.usembassy-israel.org.il>) or the [IASP Program](http://www.usembassy-israel.org.il/publish/exchange.htm) website (<http://www.usembassy-israel.org.il/publish/exchange.htm>) and with AMIDEAST Headquarters via our updated [IASP Alumni Website](http://www.amideast.org/programs/et/iasp/alumni.htm) (<http://www.amideast.org/programs/et/iasp/alumni.htm>).

IASP Alumni Association

The Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program was established by the United States Congress in 1991. Since that time more than forty students have taken part in the program. As the number of alumni continues to grow, the idea of creating an

IASP alumni association has been on many people's minds. While the formation of an IASP alumni association is still in the idea stage, many of your fellow alumni have offered to assist in its creation. Your assistance in establishing this association is important, as part of organizing the association, and in continuing to provide news of your accomplishments for the newsletters. If you are interested in helping to create an IASP alumni association, please contact Elena Mischel at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv:
em@usembassy-israel.org.il

Organizational Update

In October 1999, the United States Information Agency, which had sponsored the Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program since its inception, merged with the United States Department of State. As part of the merger, the newly formed Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs oversees the Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program. The transition was relatively smooth and AMIDEAST was very

excited to begin working with its colleagues at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



At AMIDEAST we are looking forward to 2001 and our 50th anniversary of promoting understanding between Americans and peoples of the Middle East and North Africa. To celebrate this milestone, we will be hosting an international conference on education in Marrakech, Morocco. Entitled **Summit on Education in the Arab World—Preparing for the Global Marketplace**, the conference will bring together participants from the Middle East and North Africa, North America, and other areas of the world to assess the impact of globalization on education and training, and to explore the use of technology and other methodologies for human resource development in the region.

International Education Week

As part of his initiative to prepare Americans for the global environment of the future, President Clinton declared the week of November 13, 2000, as the first-ever International Education Week. The United States Department of State is combining efforts with the United States Department of Education in order to promote and organize International Education Week.

As part of International Education Week, United States Secretary of Education Richard Riley has asked ambassadors serving in the US to visit area schools and colleges. As of September 25, 2000, more than forty foreign ambassadors had already agreed to participate. Just as ambassadors in the US were invited to share about their own cultures, US ambassadors abroad were encouraged to visit schools in their areas.

Central to the idea of International Education Week is the role that the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs plays in sponsoring international

exchanges such as IASP and the Fulbright Program. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright wrote that the activities of International Education Week “will demonstrate our strong belief that international education and exchange—*public diplomacy*—have a critical role in U.S. foreign relations in the new millennium.”

As an alumnus or alumna of IASP—whether completing your studies in the United States, or working at home—your participation in International Education Week is strongly encouraged. If in the United States, contact the International Student Office on your campus to see what activities they have planned. For example, you can make arrangements to visit a primary or secondary school classroom during the week. Students and teachers are eager to learn about your culture, everyday life at home, and your experiences as an international scholar. Encourage the students to ask questions. If you have returned home, visit a school and tell the students about life in America and your experiences as an IASP scholar. Also, contact the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv to see how you might get involved in the programs they have planned. Wherever you are, feel free to contact AMIDEAST as well for more information.

Alumni News and Notes

Since completing their programs, IASP alumni have pursued a wide variety of individual goals. Some alumni remained in the United States to continue their education, others returned home to study. Some entered universities not as students, but instead as professors, while others exited the academic world and entered the work force as part of non-profit organizations, government organizations, and business. The following are highlights from just a few of your fellow alumni.

Samer HajYehia (1996-1998) began working at Herzon, Fox Ne’eman Advocates immediately after completing his IASP funded program in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. By the end of 1999, he transferred to Deloitte Touch, a major international consulting firm, where he is a senior consultant and manager. In addition to his work in the business sector, Mr.

HajYehia teaches at Tel-Aviv College, Menhal College in Rishon, and Al-Najah in Nablus. After two years in the work force, Mr. HajYehia has decided to return to the United States and complete his PhD program in Economics at MIT. We would also like to wish Mr. HajYehia congratulations on his recent marriage.

Ibtisam Ibrahim (1996-1998) completed her PhD in Development Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in September 2000; Dr. Ibrahim will begin a post-doctoral fellowship at Tel Aviv University in Fall 2000.

In an effort to continue the cultural exchange started by his IASP grant, **Adib Jarrar** (1994-1996) has begun a new course of study in France. Beginning by focusing his attentions on the French language, Mr. Jarrar will pursue an upper level degree in Clinical Psychology. While in the United States Mr. Jarrar received an MA in Social Work from Columbia University. Prior to his program in France, Mr. Jarrar worked for the New Israel Fund, a non-profit organization which aims to promote democracy, civil society, social change, tolerance and pluralism in Israel. In 1998, Mr. Jarrar received a grant from the International Forum for Social Innovation, a French organization, to attend an international conference in Paris on authority, leadership, and transformation. It was during this trip that Mr. Jarrar developed his interest in studying in France. According to Mr. Jarrar, he is very involved in a variety of issues which "manifest the power of the globalization trend."

Congratulations to **Ehab Kabaha** (1993-1995) and his wife on the birth of their daughter earlier this year. Mr. Kabaha received an LLM from Columbia University while on IASP.

After completing his SJD program at Harvard University, **Dorgam Mara'ee** (1995-1997) returned to Israel and served as a legal advisor to the Palestinian Delegation to the Middle East Peace Talks.

Fadia Nassir (1993-1995) received her PhD in Education from University of Georgia in 1997. Since returning to Israel, Dr. Nassir has worked as a lecturer and researcher at Beit Berl College, where she is the head of the faculty evaluation

project and member of the researcher committee. In addition to her work at Beit Berl College, Dr. Nasser was awarded a post-doctoral scholarship at Tel Aviv University in 1998. In 1999, she was awarded a three-year Moaf scholarship through which she was assigned a lecturer position in the School of Education at Tel Aviv University. Dr. Nasser is also active in local and international conferences.

Camelia Suleiman (1994-1996) has been awarded a Lady Davis post-doctoral grant for the 2000 academic year at Hebrew University. During her IASP program, Dr. Suleiman pursued a PhD in Linguistics at Georgetown University.

Fulbright HQ Staff and Projects

The Fulbright staff at AMIDEAST Headquarters includes Mr. Matt McMahon who manages the Program and a Program Officer/Program Assistant team. Program Officer Ms. Sarah Fuller and Program Assistant Ms. Reagan Roth advise grantees from the IASP program.

Contact AMIDEAST

If you would like to get in touch with other IASP Alumni, please email us:

Matt McMahon: mmcmahon@amideast.org

Sarah Fuller: sfuller@amideast.org

Reagan Roth: rroth@amideast.org

If you do not have email access, you can fax Sarah Fuller: U.S. 202-776-7056. You can also write to us at:

IASP AMIDEAST Alumni Network
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036 USA

Please continue to send us your news--we will include your items of interest in our next newsletter.

An additional point of contact for you is Elena Mischel at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv. You may reach her via email at: em@usembassy-israel.org.il

Or you may write to her at:

Elena Mischel
Public Affairs Office
Embassy of the United States
Migdalor Building

1 Ben Yehuda Street
Tel Aviv
Israel



AMIDEAST
امید است

Alumni Contact Information Sheet

Please provide as much information as possible, and sign and return this form AMIDEAST headquarters so that AMIDEAST can continue to improve your IASP Alumni Association.

Name: _____ AMIDEAST ID Number: _____

Dates of Your IASP Program Start: _____ Finish: _____

Current Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you have access to the internet? _____ Yes _____ No

Please provide your contact information for your place of employment.

Position Title: _____

Employment Address: _____

Employment Telephone Number: _____

**I, _____, GIVE AMIDEAST PERMISSION TO
PROVIDE MY CONTACT INFORMATION TO OTHER IASP STUDENTS AND IASP-
AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS AND FOR IASP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PURPOSES.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*****On the reverse side of this paper, please tell us about any of your personal or professional accomplishments so that we may include them in the next edition of the IASP Alumni Newsletter.**